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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1427TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 27 July 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions,
Information and Assistance (continued)

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin
Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and
Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the
international institutions associated with the United Nations

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- Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued)
- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued)
- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (continued)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1796)

The CHAIRMAN: As members will recall, at our last meeting, on Tuesday, 20 July, the Committee agreed to consult on two new paragraphs - one preambular and one operative - to be incorporated into the consolidated draft resolution in the section relating to American Samoa. I understand that those two paragraphs have been made available to members in all official languages.

It is also my understanding that, through consultations held by members up until today, those two paragraphs have been agreed to, and I should now like to read them out. The new seventh preambular paragraph reads as follows:

"Taking note of the report of the Port Moresby Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization and the information provided at the Seminar by the Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa and other participants,".

(The Chairman)

New operative paragraph 6 reads as follows:

"Requests additional information from the elected representatives of American Samoa, the administering Power, and/or other sources to enable the Special Committee to determine its future course of action on the question of American Samoa. In this connection, the Committee expresses its firm conviction that a visiting mission to American Samoa at this stage would provide an effective means to obtain information on developments in the Territory and to ascertain the views of the people of American Samoa with regard to their future status."

Do I take it that the Committee agrees to the additional paragraphs as read out to it?

It was so decided.

Mr. DIARRA (Mali) (interpretation from French): I am happy that the Committee has reached a consensus on these questions. I should merely like to discover the fate of the original operative paragraph 6. At the end of the draft resolution on American Samoa we have always included a paragraph calling upon the administering Power to invite a visiting mission to the Territory. As this is taken care of in the new operative paragraph that we have just adopted, I should like to know what happens to the original paragraph 6.

Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone): Our original proposal was that the preambular paragraph that you have just read out should be the seventh, and that the operative paragraph we have just approved should replace the original operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. That was the original proposal. Perhaps other members have a different suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN: I also note that the visiting mission referred to in the original operative paragraph 6 is referred to in the new paragraph. Therefore, as suggested by the original sponsor of the amendment, we can agree that the new operative paragraph 6 replaces the old paragraph 6.

I see that there is general agreement.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The last preambular paragraph recalls the dispatch in 1981 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory. Are there any comments? Does this have any bearing on the amendments? Should it be left as it is?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): In principle, we have nothing against the last preambular paragraph remaining as it is. But in view of the new operative paragraph 6 there seems to be no need for that preambular paragraph, and we could do without it. However, this is up to the Committee.

We should also like to mention that in operative paragraph 5 there is an appeal to the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory, and then we are told why this should be done. Taking into account the most recent information received by members of the Committee during the Seminar - that people were happy, although it is up to the Committee to say whether economic and social conditions should continue to improve - why do we limit ourselves to calling for a reduction in the Territory's economic dependence on the United States? The population seems to be satisfied, but in promoting economic and social development in the Territory we should aim higher. We should improve the well-being of the population and see to it that people have a better life; we should not just

(Mr. Berezovsky,
Russian Federation)

keep things as they are. So maybe we should leave out the part of the paragraph that calls on the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory, and not limit the objectives of that development.

The CHAIRMAN: It is important for the Committee and the Assembly to note the period during which there have been no visiting missions to the Territory - since 1981. Therefore, in the operative paragraph we ask for some action. So I think it is relevant for us to keep both that language and the new language in the new operative paragraph 6.

(The Chairman)

My difficulty regarding paragraph 5 is that there is no guarantee that the greater economic assistance given to the Territory will continue after the people decide that they want to go their own way. We do not know the economic base of the country and therefore we need more information. If the people of American Samoa decide on another status, a status which will not allow the current flows to continue, they will find themselves in a difficult situation. I think that the paragraph is a statement of fact and that it has its own significance. I appreciate the Subcommittee's formulation but, as suggested by the representative of the Russian Federation, it is open for discussion.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): Since it is difficult for us to understand the true state of affairs in the Territory, I looked at the text in a broader context, but I find your statement most convincing, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his cooperation. It appears that we are in agreement. May I therefore take it that the Committee adopts the report of the Subcommittee and the consolidated draft resolution, as orally amended?

The report of the Subcommittee and the consolidated draft resolution (Parts A and B), as orally amended, were adopted.

100TH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP (A/AC.109/L.1804) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Committee adopts the report?

The report was adopted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/48/224 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to the report

(The Chairman)

by the Secretary-General circulated in documents A/48/224 and Corr.1 and Add.1. I have been informed that the secretariat has also distributed to members the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/L.37, on which the Economic and Social Council will take action this week.

As members are aware, I have just returned from Geneva, where I attended the meetings of the Economic and Social Council at which this item was considered. In accordance with established practice, I attended the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, from 21 to 23 July 1993, to participate in the discussions on the item regarding the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

The item was considered in plenary meeting on 23 July. The Council had before it the report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the question, contained respectively in documents E/1993/98 and A/48/224 and Add.1.

In the statement that I delivered on that occasion, I drew members' attention to the need for the United Nations to meet the target set by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/47 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. I also reaffirmed this Committee's conviction that accelerated economic and social development of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would contribute to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination and independence,

(The Chairman)

and I emphasized the role that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations could play in that regard.

I informed the Council of the efforts being deployed by the Committee to assess as accurately as possible the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Territories. I took that opportunity to apprise the Council of the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee's latest Seminar, held in Papua New Guinea in June. My review of those conclusions centred on a number of key requests made by the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories at the Seminar, including the need for the specialized agencies and other institutions of the United Nations family to facilitate the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of these agencies and institutions; the need to assist those Territories in developing regional programmes of cooperation in the management of regional economic exclusive zones aimed at protecting marine resources from illegal exploitation; and the need to assist the Territories in preparing development plans and to include the Territories - particularly the small island Territories - in regional programmes relating to natural disaster reduction and so on.

On behalf of the Committee, I expressed gratitude to those agencies for the efforts they have been deploying to assist the Territories and I invited them to increase their contributions. I also invited all the agencies to study carefully not only the report (A/47/414) of the Secretary-General entitled "Specific problems and needs of island developing countries", but also the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories as expressed at our regional Seminar.

(The Chairman)

During the three days that I spent at the meeting, I held a number of consultations with the President and members of the Council to discuss the question further and to enlist their support for the draft resolution to be considered by the Council.

As I mentioned earlier, I understand that the secretariat has already distributed the draft resolution to the members of the Committee. As they will note, 11 countries had already sponsored the draft resolution by the time it was submitted for processing. During my consultations I noted that many delegations, including some of those that voted against the similar draft resolution last year, were willing to support it at this year's session.

The draft resolution was submitted on Friday 23 July, and was issued as an official document this morning in Geneva.

(The Chairman)

Once again, the Ambassador of Benin kindly offered to introduce the draft resolution and I understand that he did so this morning. In his introductory statement, the Permanent Representative of Benin drew the attention of members to the new paragraphs and the reasons for their insertion. He concluded by recommending that the draft be adopted by consensus and he invited more members to join the list of sponsors. I have not yet received any indication regarding the adoption of the draft resolution, which should be any time soon, since the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council is scheduled to conclude its work by Thursday this week. I will inform the members of the Committee as soon as I have received the Council's decision. In keeping with established practice, a related report will, of course, be prepared and circulated to the members of the Committee as soon as possible.

ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158 and 1161) (continued)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1144, 1149 and 1151) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: As members will recall, the list of speakers in the general debate was closed on 13 July with no speaker inscribed on it. I shall therefore take it that no delegation wishes to participate in the general debate. I would therefore urge members to continue their consultations in respect of the draft decisions still pending on the remaining three items, so that the Committee may conclude its consideration of the items. The only remaining item would be the question of New Caledonia, which the Committee will consider after the South Pacific Forum meetings in August.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: In relation to the three draft resolutions that remain outstanding in the Committee's work, I suggest that the Committee take up informal consultations on the draft resolution relating to specialized agencies and international institutions on the basis of the draft resolution being considered by the Economic and Social Council at the moment, which is available to members.

Secondly, we do not yet have any draft texts in relation to the items on military activities and foreign economic interests. I suggest that, when this meeting adjourns, we go into informal consultations on how we should approach our work in relation to those two texts. We shall try to schedule another meeting for the afternoon of Thursday, 29 July. If we are able to come up with any conclusions on those texts, we might take them up at that meeting. Otherwise, announcements can be made in the Journal for that purpose.

Does any member wish to comment on our work?

Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone): I simply wish to report to the Committee that informal consultations are being carried out by the liberation movements of the front-line States. They have identified a number of paragraphs, in both the preambular and the operative parts, which they wish to have amended. They have come up with some language, but they are still waiting for the Tanzanian Coordinator to see if all the various texts can be merged or synchronized. That is why I would be somewhat reluctant to propose any draft texts at this time. But when we go into informal consultations, perhaps we can talk about how best to approach the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.